

Amendment
Serial No.: 09/708,309

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy of a telephone interview on May 7, 2003 granted by Examiner Wright, to Wm. Brook Lafferty, attorney for Applicant. The following discussion is intended to constitute a complete and proper recordation of such interview in accordance with M.P.E.P § 713.04.

No agreement as to the pending claims was reached during the interview. Dependant Claims 16 and 17 were discussed in general in regard to the § 112 and 103 rejections. No specific claim amendments were discussed.

In regard to the § 112 rejection, the general thrust of the argument asserted by Mr. Lafferty was that the text of the specification associated with the Figures, in particular Figs. 12A-B and 13A-B, would allow one skilled in the art to recognize what is being claimed as the present invention. Also, Mr. Lafferty asserted that literal support for the limitations of the claims is not required in the specification.

In regard to the obviousness rejection, Mr. Lafferty asserted that one of the problems dealt with in the present invention is to get floatation materials of unitary construction to flex. Claim 16 requires at least one of the flexion channels on the front of a unitary floatation element to not correspond with a flexion channel on the opposite side of the same unitary floatation element. The cited combination does not disclose or suggest this feature. The *Morner* reference does not teach or suggest unitary construction. To the extent that *Morner* could be relied upon to maintain the rejection, *Morner* expressly discloses that the cells are to be non-communicating and that they should be close fitting

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and evenly spaced. Mr. Lafferty asserted that there is no suggestion in *Morner* that the cells could be spaced differently relative to one another.

The Examiner agreed to reconsider the claims in view of the arguments asserted by Mr. Lafferty. If for any reason the foregoing record is not considered complete and accurate, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicant.

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed on January 13, 2003, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the application. Review and consideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks and amendments.

Independent Claim 15 was previously allowed.

Independent Claims 1, 5, 13 and 14 are amended to include the limitations of canceled Claim 17.

Independent Claim 7 is amended to include the limitations of canceled Claim 16.

New independent Claim 18 includes the limitations of previous Claim 7 in combination with canceled Claim 17.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The remaining dependant claims are believed to at least be allowable based upon the dependency from an allowable base claim.

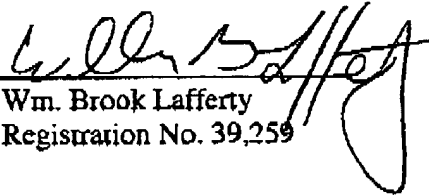
Applicant submits herewith a Petition for a one (1) Month Extension of Time for this response and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost for such extension to

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Deposit Account No. 20-1507. Also, the Commissioner is further authorized to charge the cost of the additional independent Claim to the above-identified deposit account. No additional fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 20-1507.

Based on the forgoing, it is submitted that the Claims comply with the Examiner's requirements and are now in condition for allowance. Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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